

# THE FELLOWSHIP

*Your World Recovered*

July 2009

Volume 11

*The Fellowship is a newsletter published by the Chemical Recovery ministry. The Fellowship is making recovery far more exciting, provocative, and high-spirited (no pun intended), than our addiction ever was. The news of this world is dominated by an earthly perspective. The Fellowship is a refreshing view of "everything under the sun" from the perspective of those formerly deeply entrenched in its vices and now free and grateful to share a unique perspective on life.*

## In celebration of **Independence Day**

This month's edition of  
**The Fellowship**  
looks at  
Chemical Recovery and  
**FREEDOM**

The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the poor.

He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners.

*Isaiah 61:1 NIV*

DROP US A LINE



Faq@chemicalrecovery.org

**We're  
All  
Ears**

## FEATURED ARTICLES ON THE WEB

Read these articles at

[www.chemicalrecovery.org](http://www.chemicalrecovery.org)

- ▷ [What Kind of Independence?](#)
- ▷ [Willingness To Change - Sick and Tired of Being Sick and Tired](#)
- ▷ [Accountability - A Biblical Principle](#)
- ▷ [Every Year I Got Worse](#)



**JUST ANOTHER  
INDEPENDENCE  
DAY ?**

Needless to say I had never been in touch with the spirit of these holidays, but as a truth-seeking Christian, and in particular one in recovery, Independence Day has taken on a new and deeper meaning for me.

I now understand how the colonists who declared themselves free, were not merely saying they were free to enjoy life and liberty and to pursue happiness, but they were confronting a powerful, tyrannical king with the message that they were no longer under his kingship and were from that day forward separate from him. Essentially they were rebelling against his oppressive authority. I now see the courage of these men who knew that their actions had essentially put them at war with their previous nation and they would face the full might of that nation's armed forces. Blood would be shed and lives lost, but these were a people determined to have either freedom or death.

Every addict in recovery should be able to relate to the feeling of enslavement that our forefathers felt. Drugs and alcohol rendered us powerless to their demands and left many of us literally impoverished and destitute. It is a bold thing to say to the prince of this world, he whose throne is here on earth, that we will no longer be under his rule but are instead joining a free nation—the Kingdom of God! And that is the bold declaration of independence that we all have made in CR.

It is paramount that during this holiday we pay honor to the freedom that we have and that we remember the means by which it was obtained. The founders of America bled, hurt, cried, sacrificed and died for the freedoms we enjoy. Jesus was pierced, tortured, cried out in unimaginable agony, sacrificed via crucifixion as a lamb of atonement, and died, the innocent for the guilty, for our ultimate freedom. We are indebted to God for freeing us through his son and to those who followed His son's precepts in establishing the tenets of our nation which they declared as "self-evident" truths from "God". In times such as these when we are tempted more than ever to return our freedoms back to earthly czars and, through moral relativism's corrosive effects on traditional values and the laws which reflect these values, let us remember how sweet, precious and dear is freedom and honor it with our hearts and words this 4th of July.

## **Writers Needed**



We are committed to getting out God's message of hope to those in need of recovery. We present articles and commentaries that confront others to think about their lives in light of the events and times around them. We are looking for like-minded Christians who can write cutting-edge articles to aid in this endeavor.

To join us in this work, please email [article@chemicalrecovery.org](mailto:article@chemicalrecovery.org)

**Q:** In the past people were required to attend CR before being baptized. Is this still the case?

**A:** In Matt 15:7—9 Jesus tells the Jewish leaders that Isaiah was right when he had prophesied about them saying that not only did they worship with their lips and not their hearts but that their rules were of man and not of God. I don't believe that these leaders set out to get it wrong, but over time and compromise, it simply happened that way. Either way they were guilty.

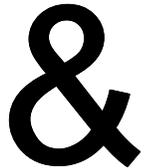
When scripture talks about entering into God's new covenant, becoming a Christian, in regards to sin it tells us that we need to be repentant [Acts 2:38] and that we need to pledge a good conscience towards God [1 Peter 3: 20-21]. Repentance would require the desire to change whatever in your life is opposed to Jesus while the pledge of a good conscience would imply that you were not knowingly holding back something of which you were not willing to repent.

At every point these actions are voluntary: the choice to repent, the choice to pledge a good conscience. So in reality, attending CR is also a choice. The Kingdom of God is all about choices and their consequences. However take note: God will not be mocked. If you try to make a fool of Him, He will show you who the fool really is!

If you are an addict then attending CR will be a benefit to your walk with God. To not attend if you could would be foolishness, as you are refusing to do the good you know you ought to do. Bear in mind that the Scripture tells us that the weeds will grow amongst the wheat until the final harvest so there will be those who call themselves Christians but are not.

CR does not have the same requirements it had in the past. You are not required to be studying the Bible or coming to Church, you are not required to attend each week or bring a discipling partner with you. You are not even required to stay for the whole group! The result of this is that those in the room really want to get well. They are there because they value their relationship with God and want to hold onto it. They are there because they know who the fools really are.

**Have a question? Send it to [faq@chemicalrecovery.org](mailto:faq@chemicalrecovery.org)**



## What Makes You Think You're Free?

"Free at last, free at last." The immortal words of Dr. King ring out across time reminding us that the desire to be truly free is much more than just a dream. It's certainly true that God has set eternity and therefore eternal liberation on the hearts of all men (Ecc 3:11). His great justice has given men everywhere the gift of freewill.

How can we know whether or not we are truly free? Scripture teaches us that all men have inherited a sinful nature that will not, and indeed cannot submit to God. As such we are slaves to it's continual wants and desires and can never therefore on our own be free of it's influence. Our grandiose notions to the contrary notwithstanding, we

are on our own, free only to do what our current desires dictate (John 8: 34) (Rom 7: 14).

On the other hand. The scriptures also reveal that it's impossible for anyone to come to God without first giving up everything they have (Luke 14; 33), and by giving up one's very self they are in effect becoming slaves to God by making themselves wholly dependant upon Him (Rom 6: 22).

The Bible isn't shy in declaring that all men are bound to be slaves. Whether we live as slaves to either sin or righteousness is entirely up to us (2 Peter 2: 19b). The question isn't so much a matter of whether or not a person is a slave, but to whom. An enslavement to sin beyond the inescapable negative consequences, ultimately leads only to death (Rom 6:23). A life however, of committed submission to God, and a conscious decision to become a slave to righteousness, pays big dividends not only in this life but also in the eternal life to come.

If freedom can be defined as doing whatever one wants, how free is anyone who's unable to enjoy the greatest of all liberties, the freedom to save their very life.



Sign up to receive this newsletter at [www.chemicalrecovery.org](http://www.chemicalrecovery.org)

**Total Recovery | Biblical Authority | Accountability | Truth In Love | Empathy | Willingness To Change | Eternal Fellowship | Outreach**

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